



**Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited**

**Private and Confidential: No**

Tuesday, 30 January 2018

**Development of a Lancashire Innovation Plan**  
(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

**Report Author: Andy Walker, Head of Service – Business Growth,**  
**Tel: 01772 535629, [andy.walker@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:andy.walker@lancashire.gov.uk)**

**Executive Summary**

In preparation for the refresh of the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and the requirement to develop a Local Industrial Strategy, work is underway to improve Lancashire's economic evidence-base and frame potential priorities and thematic programmes of work, including innovation.

Over the last four months, the LEP and key partners (including the UK's Smart Specialisation Hub) have undertaken significant work in developing an understanding of Lancashire's innovation capacity and capabilities. For example, our work with other Northern LEPs, through national initiatives such as securing Science and Innovation Audit status, which Lancashire successfully achieved with Sheffield City Region. However, this work highlighted that Lancashire can achieve much more by establishing an agreed Innovation Plan with strong governance arrangements linked to the work of the LEP and its key partners. The Government's Industrial Strategy further underlines the value of adopting such a place-based approach to innovation.

The Board has previously agreed funding support to engage consultants to support the preparation of a Lancashire Innovation Plan (Appendix 'A'). A number of LEP Directors have engaged in the Plan's development along with other senior leaders drawn from business, local authority, and university and college sectors. The draft final report is presented for comment and approval by the LEP Board.

**Recommendation**

The Board is asked to:

- 1) Receive a presentation on the conclusions of draft Lancashire Innovation Plan;
- 2) Propose any final amendments to the draft Lancashire Innovation Plan;
- 3) Subject to any changes, accept the document as the Innovation Plan of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership; and



- 4) Agree to the establishment of a new innovation governance arrangements, as part of the refresh of the LEP's Assurance Framework, to be presented to the next Board meeting in April.

## Background and Advice

Supporting businesses and supply chains to actively engage with and accelerate their innovation processes is one of the most effective actions that the LEP and its key partners can pursue to improve the productivity and competitiveness of the local economy.

The Draft Lancashire Innovation Plan as attached at Appendix 'A' to this report is the product of a six-month process, supported by consultants SDG Economic Development consultants, which has considered:

- A refreshed evidence base and summary SWOT review of Lancashire's economy and existing innovation activities;
- A framework and vision for an Innovation Plan; and
- The actions and resource necessary to drive forward Lancashire's ambition around this key policy theme.

The Innovation Plan is also underpinned by a data "vault" that can be drawn on to inform the refresh of the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan and has started the process of collating an Innovation Asset Register for Lancashire (Appendix 'B'). The latter is a living document which begins to bring together:

- World class, technology-driven, companies;
- Innovation and technology facilities, with a track-record / obligation to engage business (including LEP Growth Deal beneficiaries);
- Innovation support programmes; and
- Innovations promoters/champions with national influence.

The Action Plan aims to ensure that this innovation "eco-system" can start to work together more effectively to drive innovation in Lancashire and build links with others who share or complement Lancashire's strengths. The Strategic Framework which has arisen from the analysis can be summarised as having five Strategic Aims and three Cross Cutting Themes:

### Strategic Aims

Innovation Capability – 'Staying Ahead'

- Innovation Capability – 'Routeways to Excellence'
- Innovation Ecosystem – Building Resilience
- Innovation Ecosystem – Enabling Infrastructures for Innovation



- Innovation Ecosystem – Letting the World Know

#### Cross Cutting Themes

- Use-inspired in our R&D and its deployment
- Excellence in delivery, driven by real evaluation and learning
- Collaborating to compete for Lancashire

In terms of progressing the actions which underpin these themes, there are some clear immediate opportunities to create capacity and fund activity. HEI colleagues have agreed to jointly fund a new Innovation Manager post to help support the LEP's innovation priorities. In March this year, a call will be issued based on the gaps identified within the Strategic Framework, to make best use of the £2.5m ERDF funds available for innovation activity. This should result in an initial programme of "innovation" activity worth up to £5m.

To lead and drive forward these and future opportunities, the Board is asked to agree to establishing new innovation partnership arrangements for Lancashire within the LEP's overarching governance structure. If this approach is supported by the Board, the LEP's forthcoming refresh of its Assurance Framework would enable such a proposal to come forward and provide the opportunity to integrate current Committee arrangements. This approach would also enable the LEP to engage with new business leaders and partners that are focused on realising new innovation opportunities and their benefits to Lancashire.